

From: Bushong, Linda (MDE) **On Behalf Of** Leikert, Howard J (MDE)
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2011 4:06 PM
To: MDE-SchoolNutrition
Subject: Tuesday News from MDE 091311

How time flies!! It's been a week already so here is the second installment of my weekly news update:

- 1) Community Eligibility Option – Hopefully, you have all received information about this exciting opportunity for Michigan and the students we serve. If for some reason you have fallen through the cracks, there is plenty of information on our website, www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition, under Community Eligibility Option. Applications are due Thursday, September 15, 2011.
- 2) National School Lunch Week – This year it is October 10-14. Start making plans now (if you haven't already) to celebrate the week that should be important to us all. With all of the media attention on school nutrition, you might be able to get the local media to come and do a POSITIVE story on the school lunch program.
- 3) Milk – Not to repeat myself from last week, but there shouldn't be any 2% or higher milk fat content being served in our school meals programs. 1% or skim only!! I know some schools are using only flavored and unflavored skim milk!! Great way to get your fat content down for the health of your students and for the School Meals Initiative (SMI) reviews.
- 4) Great to Meet You All – I had the privilege of traveling to various sites across the state this past summer to do presentations, and I enjoyed meeting all of you dedicated and hardworking people out in the field. While making it to individual school districts isn't likely, if you are having a meeting with a group of school districts and you'd like me to do a presentation, let me know. I enjoy getting in the field and answering all your questions (as best I can anyhow).
- 5) Count Date – To a large extent because of Community Eligibility, I have been referring to Field 31 on the MSDS system a lot lately. It has just come to my attention that in MSDS the field is no longer called "Field 31." It is called "Supplemental Nutrition Eligibility." Also, October 5 is the count date, not the collection date. Schools must enter appropriate information in the Supplemental Nutrition Eligibility characteristic in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) as of the October 5 count date.

I hope you are all off to a successful start this school year. I will be back again next week with some more information. As always, if you have questions that you think would have universal interest, let me know and I will include it. Thanks!

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